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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/581,739	06/06/2006	Stefan Schneweis	06060	8690
23338 7590 02/10/2009 DENNISON, SCHULTZ & MACDONALD 1727 KING STREET SUITE 105 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER MILLER, MICHAEL G				
ART UNIT 1792		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 02/10/2009		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Examiner notes the amendment filed 30 DEC 2008. The amendment will not be entered, as it raises new matters for search and consideration (in particular, the wording restricts the channels in the substrate to being gas-permeable, which changes the scope of the claims significantly).

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 30 DEC 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

3. Applicant's argument is that Delperier et al does not teach surface densification, rather teaching complete densification of the substrate. Examiner respectfully disagrees and points to Paragraphs 0046-0047 thereof. In brief, it discusses the gas flow through and around the support trays and particularly points out that the gas flow is meant to be across the surfaces. If internal densification of the substrates was desired, a more efficient means of doing such would be to have the gas flow be in a direction such that it would pass through the substrate surface instead of across it. In any event, flow directed across a surface will densify the surface before densifying the interior, leaving a porous interior through which gas can flow. Examiner respectfully notes that there is no required orientation of the passage openings in the invention as claimed

(e.g. the passage openings are not required to penetrate one or both external faces of the substrate).

4. Applicant's arguments regarding Valentian and Carroll are drawn to curing the defect of Delperier, in this case the porous nature of the densified substrate. As discussed above, Examiner maintains the position that Delperier produces porous substrates and as such Valentian and Carroll are not required to cure said defect.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL G. MILLER whose telephone number is (571)270-1861. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Cleveland can be reached on (571) 272-1418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael G. Miller/
Examiner, Art Unit 1792

/Michael Cleveland/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1792